incentives are also being given for organising Thrift & Credit societies and creation of missing infrastructure and basic minimum services in urban poor/slum areas, through provision of wage employment.

Non-Utilisation of Funds for the Welfare of SCs and STs

*65. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-utilisation of funds allocated to different States for the welfare of SCs and STs under the Centrally sponsored schemes during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the reasons advanced for non-utilisation and the steps taken to ensure proper and timely utilisation of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statements enclosed. (*See* below statement I and II)

(c) Most of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes relate to construction of hostels and ashram schools. In view of the time required for acquisition of land, finalization of tenders and execution of work, all such works are taking 2 to 3 years for completion. The concerned State/UT Governments are requested to furnish Progress Report every quarter. In case of undue delays further grants are withheld until utilisation of previous grants improves. In respect of other schemes, unspent balances are adjusted against the claims for the subsequent year.

Statement I

Details of Releases made to various States/UTs and Amount lying unspent during last three years under Scheme of Boys Hostel, Girls Hostel and Ashram Schools (Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of States/U.T.	Releases during 1995-96	Unspent amount of 1995-96	Releases during 1996-97	Unspent amount of 1996-97	Releases during 1997-98	Unspent amount of 1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	255.80	228.98	313.60	313.60	245.65	245.65
Assam	3.03	nil	35.00	16.00	nil	nil
Gujarat	nil	nil	21.60	21.60	nil	nil
Himachal Pradesh	6.50	6.50	nil	nil	30.00	30.00
Kerala	nil	nil	34.70	34.70	nil	nil
Madhya Pradesh	99.45	99.45	nil	nil	nil	nil
Manipur	nil	nil	68.75	nil	19.00	19.00
Meghalaya	27.50	nil	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50
Orissa	182.55	71.00	150.00	40.50	130.00	130.00
Rajasthan	66.74	nil	33.37	33.37	150.165	150.165
Tamil Nadu	nil	nil	43.28	43.28	nil	nil
Tripura	96.20	nil	158.91	nil	125.96	125.96
Uttar Pradesh	nil	nil	nil	nil	11.165	11.165
West Bengal	135.49	135.49	nil	nil	nil	nil
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	85.00	85.00	nil	nil	nil	nil
Daman and Diu	20.00	0.24	nil	nil	20.00	20.00
J&K	36.75	36.75	17.22	17.22	nil	nil
Karnataka	nil	nil	13.25	13.25	42.495	42.495
Maharashtra	nil	nil	nil	nil	127.00	127.00

Statement II

Details of Central Assistance Released during last three years under boys Hostel Scheme for Scheduled Castes

S.No.	State/UT	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised	Released	Unutilised upto 1996-97
1.	Andhra Pradesh	198.90	138.45	nil	nil	nil	60.43
2.	Assam	9.00	9.00	nil	nil	5.50	-
3.	Bihar	nil	nil	75.00	nil	nil	75.00
4.	Gujarat	65.16	20.22	nil	nil	nil	44.94
5.	Haryana	1.82	1.82	5.00	5.00	4.00	-
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.15	3.05	nil	2.66	19.51	-
7.	Karnataka	324.45	324.43	121.50	121.50	nil	-
8.	Maharashtra	93.83	nil	67.54	nil	nil	148.70
9.	Madhya Pradesh	216.30	216.30	500.00	500.00	666.75	Arrear
10.	Orissa	25.29	15.17	nil	30.12	30.00	Arrear
11.	Punjab	3.00	nil	nil	3.00	30.00	-
12.	Rajasthan	220.01	17.69	143.96	220.01	129.66	Arrear
13.	Tamil Nadu	100.00	nil	nil	nil	nil	170.00
14.	Tripura	6.00	6.00	12.00	12.00	20.00	Arrear
15.	Uttar Pradesh	66.93	nil	nil	nil	nil	66.93
16.	West Bengal	134.01	nil	nil	nil	nil	134.01
17.	Chandigarh	15.00	15.00	15.00	nil	nil	15.00

*In respect of actual unspent balance will be known only when proposals for 1998-99 are received.

Credit flow to SSIs

*66. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of complicated obsolete rules and regulations which hurt the interests of small scale sector in the country in the flow of credit from NABARD and SIDBI; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to ease the situation being faced by Small Scale Industries while dealing with big Companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The rules and regulations are framed to meet the requirements of safety, security and proper use of credit to SSI sector. Based on actual experience and to ensure proper development, these rules and regulations are adjusted and amended as necessary. SIDBI and NABARD take care to ensure flow of credit to the SSI sector by making appropriate adjustments and amendments in procedures as and when required.

(b) A major problem faced by small scale industries while dealing with big companies relate to the problem of delayed payments. To ease the situation being faced by small scale industries while dealing with big companies, an Act entitled "The Interest on Delayed Payment to Small Scale and Industrial Undertaking Act, 1993" has come into effect from 2nd April, 1993, which provides that if a buyer fails to make payment on the appointed date, he will become liable to pay an interest on the outstanding amount which will be 5